

## SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

### SARL NEWS SUNDAY 25 JULY 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za), on packet bulletin boards and on echolink. Echolink users can click on to ZS6FCS and they are invited to relay the bulletin on their local repeaters.

Queries on how to obtain and use Echolink or reports, comments or suggestions from echolink users will be appreciated. They can send an e-mail to: [zs6fcs@telkomsa.net](mailto:zs6fcs@telkomsa.net).

### SILENT KEYS

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club regrets to announce the death of Clive Carr, ZS6CLC, who passed away on Thursday 15 July. Clive was an very active member of the club.

In the early 1990's Clive was a committee member and chairman of the then West Rand Branch of the SARL. On 18 July 1992 he received the Young Amateur of the year award from the SARL. We express our sincere condolences to his Mom, Dad, Sister, other relatives and friends.

The funeral service will be on Monday 26 July at 11:00 in the Discovery Christian Life Center on the corner of Celeste and Winifred roads, Discovery, Roodepoort.

It also is with deep regret that we have to announce the sudden passing of one of our old timers, ZS1K, previously ZS1EV, Ronald Gilmour, while he and his wife were staying with their daughter, in Johannesburg.

Ronnie, as he was affectionately known, was 87 and suffered a heart attack on Saturday 17th July and passed away a few hours later. Ronnie was an electrical engineer in the City of Cape Town municipality and resided in Fish Hoek where he was an honorary life member of the Fish Hoek Amateur Radio, Electronics and Computer Club.

Ronnie was the son of the legendary old timer, Peter Gilmour, ZS1K, who at one time was the oldest radio amateur in South Africa. Peter was the first radio experimenter to transmit programmes to the public from his home in Muizenberg around 1910.

Ronnie ZS1K/P6, had a regular sked every Sunday with several of his old friends, ZS1CL, ZS1GR, ZS1AU and ZS6LP. He was truly one of the last of a breed of old timers from the very early days.

To his wife Pippa, his son Ian, grandchildren, other relatives and friends, we extend our deepest sympathy.

We have also learnt that John D Kraus, W8JK, of Delaware, Ohio, radio astronomer, antenna designer, cosmic explorer and author of the classic text book “Antennas” and many titles, died on the 18th July at the age of 94. Amateur radio owes a lot to his legacy.

(PAUSE)

In the news today

SARL HAMFEST UPDATE

AMATEURS SHOULD REPORT PLC TESTING TO THE SARL

NEWS FROM THE QSL BUREAU

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.

Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is [www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp](http://www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp) not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

SARL HAMFEST UPDATE

Three more subjects have been added to the lecture programme for the SARL Hamfest on 21 August which promises to be the greatest Amateur Radio event South Africa has seen for many years. Dominique Toldo will demonstrate and talk about solar flare monitoring, Dave Long, ZS5FR, will talk about Weather Satellite reception and its application in education and Thomas Abbott will lecture on three novel antennas for VHF and present complete design and construction details.

In addition there will be a two hour session on kit building with several projects being demonstrated and kits being available for purchase.

Entrance to the event will cost R20 which includes participation in the attendance draw with the main prize an Icom IC-V8000 2m Mobile, power when you need it, donated by Multi Source. Learners and students enter free but do not participate in the draw.

For more programme details visit the SARL web pages on [www.sarl.org.za](http://www.sarl.org.za). Subscribe to a free update by email by sending your email details to [RTA@sarl.org.za](mailto:RTA@sarl.org.za) in the subject line enter RTA and in the message tell us what your main interests are in amateur radio.

AMATEURS SHOULD REPORT PLC TESTING TO THE SARL

At SATCON 2004 held at the University of KwaZulu Natal yesterday, SA AMSAT President Hans van de Groenendaal, ZS6AKV, urged amateurs and short-wave listeners to report any unusual, consistent interference to the SARL and to be vigilant about any PLC testing taking place in their neighbourhood. Following Pretoria's example several other metros have shown an interest and may soon be starting trials. Heading up the SARL PLC team he said that PLC interference could affect satellite and VHF weak signal communication, mainly as a result of cross modulation of PLC signals with signals from strong local radio and TV transmitters. "The AC mains reticulation system is far from a perfect RF carrier, it more resembles a long wire antenna", he said.

Please report PLC interference and information about local testing to [plc@sarl.org.za](mailto:plc@sarl.org.za).

#### MORE NEWS ON BPL (or PLC)

Following on the previous item it is fitting to note what is happening in other parts of the world regarding BPL and here are some short news extracts obtained from QNEWS on the subject.

On Thursday 24th June US President George W. Bush made a speech entitled "High Tech Improving Economy, Health Care, Education".

An extract from it reads:

"They go everywhere. It seems to make sense, doesn't it, if what you're looking for is avenues into the home. Well, electricity goes into the home. And so one great opportunity is to spread broadband throughout America via our power lines".

In another news item the ARRL says the FCC apparently has already made up its mind about broadband over power line (BPL) and "wants no bad news" about the technology.

Again asking the FCC to put the proceeding on hold for a year, the League recommended that the Commission in the meantime require BPL providers to conduct FCC-monitored interference testing with all stakeholders.

And in Australia:

Unfortunately here in VK we learn this week that large In-building BPL networks have been given ACA Approval.

Phil Wait one of our WIA Directors says it's been reported in Communications Day that SkyNetGlobal claim to have gained approval from the ACA for their in-building powerline communications networks. The company currently has exclusive powerline access agreements with 51 buildings covering more than 10 000 residences. With the ACA permission, their plan is to achieve national coverage of 500 buildings over the next 24 months covering approximately 100 000 apartments.

Finally AMSAT's view:

AMSAT notes that BPL is almost certain to have impact beyond the frequencies it actually utilises. This is true because of two phenomena implicit in radio. One of these is the generation harmonics and another is mixing products. The full text of all of AMSAT's FCC filings can be found at <http://www.amsat.org/amsat/amsat-na/filings/>.

#### NEWS FROM THE QSL BUREAU

The QSL Bureau requests members to ensure that they have sufficient A5 sized self-addressed stamped envelopes lodged with the bureau. The stamps on the envelopes must cover postage of about 200 grams at least. Very few members have done so to date and the incoming QSL cards are piling up. Get your envelopes to the bureau as soon as possible.

The guys at the SARL QSL bureau carried out an experiment the other day. They counted 500 random QSL cards of different thicknesses, etc. and had them weighed. The weight - 1,5 kg. They then went around to the Post Office and determined the cost of overseas postage - surface mail is approximately R97,00 per kg. One thousand QSL cards would weigh in at 3 kg multiplied by R97,00 = R291,00. And we pay R290,00 annual subscription!

#### CLUB NEWS

At the AGM of the Zululand Amateur Radio Club, held on the 18th July in Richards Bay, the following Committee members were elected to serve the members of the club for the forthcoming year:

Chairman: Ty Ferguson, ZS5TT; Vice Chairman: Jan Erasmus, ZS5G; Treasurer: Willie Axford, ZS5WI; Secretary: Dawn Snyders, ZR5ME; News Editor: Jo Snyders, ZR5PO; Members: John Kramer, ZS5J; Andrew Jansen, ZR5MH; Warren Snyders, ZR5WOZ.

We wish the new committee members well during their term of office, and thank the outgoing members for their hard work during their term of office.

#### BOOTSALÉ

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club will host a bootsale on Saturday 4th September at 12:00 SAST. The venue will be the WRARC clubhouse in Kroton street, Weltevredenpark. Please note that due to popular demand the gates will open at 12:00. For more information please contact Dave, ZR6AOC, on 083 449 8991. We are looking forward to seeing you and your friends there.

#### PROPAGATION REPORT

Since Kobus, ZS6KOB, is still without data, we looked at the ARRL web where solar sage Tad Cook, K7RA, reported: Rising solar activity is in the news this week. Sunspot 652—a really big one—is currently looking straight at Earth. We are also experiencing effects from a coronal mass ejection from this spot.

Numbers and indexes of the past week were as follows: Average daily sunspot numbers: 72 points up over the previous week; Average daily solar flux: nearly

48 points up; Daily sunspot number on Monday July 19: 176, the highest reading of this index since November 30, 2003; Solar flux on July 20: 175,2 the highest flux value since November 24 of last year.

Of course, this doesn't signal any sort of upward trend in the solar cycle, but at this point there is still enough variation to provide some excitement and interest.

For HF, we generally want sunspot counts to be high for several days with stable geomagnetic conditions. Often the two don't arrive together.

#### DIARY OF EVENTS AND REMINDERS

Today is the last Sunday of July and at 12:00 the opportunity will again exist to join the President's net; 25 July: Today the last day for sending your comments on the evaluation proposals for a ZS licence, which were announced two weeks ago, by email to [secretary@sarl.org.za](mailto:secretary@sarl.org.za), or by fax to the SARL office at (011) 675 2793 or to our postal address, P.O. Box 1721, Strubensvallei 1735; 1 August: SARL HF Phone Contest; 7 August: Magalies Radio Amateur Club commences RAE course; 14 August: Div6 VHF/UHF Work group meeting; 21 August: Radio Technology in Action and Hamfest at the NARC; 4 September: West Rand Amateur Club to hold a bootsale; 2 October: Flea Market at the East Rand Radio Club; Pay SARL membership, fees; Contribute to the fund initiated by the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust for the SARL's IARU membership; Send articles for Radio ZS to [radiozs@sarl.org.za](mailto:radiozs@sarl.org.za); Visually impaired hams contact Dave, ZS1LDH, on 021-761-8386 or email Dave, care of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre on [zs1ct@qsl.net](mailto:zs1ct@qsl.net) regarding receiving Radio ZS on tape. Email SARL history to [zs6p@iafrica.com](mailto:zs6p@iafrica.com).

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Gustav, ZS6BWN, and read by .....from..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX